



**Connecticut State
Dental Association**

**Legislative Testimony
Appropriations Committee
Governor's Bill No. 7027 – An Act Concerning the State Budget for the
Biennium Ending June Thirtieth 2019, and Making Appropriations Therefor
Thursday, February 23, 2017**

Dear Senator Formica, Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Dr. William Nash. I am Immediate Past President of the Connecticut State Dental Association, a statewide, professional membership organization representing 70% of all licensed dentists in Connecticut. I have been practicing dentistry in Fairfield for 39 years. I am here today to oppose the Governor's proposal to repeal mandated reporting, eliminate the professional assistance account and move the funds to the general fund.

HAVEN is a non-profit corporation founded by the state associations of medical doctors, dentists, veterinarians, nurses and physician assistants that provides confidential support to any health professional with problems such as alcohol or substance abuse, emotional or mental illness issues, and/or physical illness problems. HAVEN conforms to CT. Statute 19a-12a & 12b. HAVEN clients continue to deliver care in a manner that ensures the public's safety.

Three years ago, in order to support HAVEN's programs, the health professionals of Connecticut agreed to a five dollar increase in their licensing fees. The Department of Health was supposed to treat this money as a pass through item and deliver those funds to HAVEN.

To date, DPH has not sent any of those funds to HAVEN. There is approximately \$635,000 in this account. The various associations have met with HAVEN, the DPH, and the State Attorney's office to resolve the matter. The money is much needed because HAVEN has to move to a larger space to accommodate increased demand for their service.

But now there is an item in this year's biennial budget that terminates the HAVEN program, turns the money owed them over to the general fund, and retains the five

dollar increase on all licensing fees. This is not what the health professions neither intended, nor were they consulted before this item was placed into the budget.

The issue is not the token amount of five dollars. The issue is the wrongful termination of a long standing agency that helps both the people in the professions and protects the citizens of the state. Please remove this part of the budget and restore the money to the proper recipient. Please urge the Department of Public Health to turn over to HAVEN the money owed and any future money collected on HAVEN's behalf.

Respectfully Submitted,

William C. Nash, D.M.D.
2157 Mill Plain Rd.
Fairfield, CT 06824
203-259-5328